Top Secret Romance
トップシークレットロマンス
SPRING ONESHOT!
40 PAGES!
サクラの秘事
SAKURA NO HIME GOTO
Sakura blossoms bloom in my heart.
ヒメゴト
SECRET OF THE SAKURA
Hagio Akira
萩尾杉
ALL 6 VOLUMES OF "SUGAR FAMILY" ARE ON SALE NOW!!!

*"SAKURA BLOSSOMS" ARE ALSO KNOWN AS CHERRY BLOSSOMS. BUT WE CHOSE TO STICK WITH SAKURA TO GO ALONG WITH THE TITLE AND A CERTAIN CHARACTER'S NAME. --ED

FOR A GENTLEMAN TO HAVE A PIERCING...
AND HAIR THAT COLOR ON TOP OF IT!
NORMAL WOULDN'T SUIT HIM.
IT'S SO VULGAR...
IT'S VERY PRETTY!
IT'S THE SAME COLOR AS SAKURA BLOSSOMS...
Huh?
He was admitted in the spring, but he can't seem to adapt to his situation in class at all.
He's a nonconformist at this academy which young men and women of good breeding attend to make connections

The two of us, whose birth and positions in life are so different,
should never have been able to become involved with each other
Narinomiya Tadahide, my grandfather who could maneuver the financial world with ease,
resigned from active service. Even now, his influence is unfathomable
After my father's death, I inherited the duty of the bloodline as the only granddaughter,
Narinomiya Aoi
There are other people who could be called "up starts" too, but
NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES, HE'S SOMEONE WHO LIVES IN A DIFFERENT WORLD FROM YOU, NARINOMIYA-SAMA
The Narinomiya family were once nobles who had ties to royalty

WOOF
Welcome home, master! ♡
I'M STARVING
or that was how it should have been.
妄想scans
I'M HOME! ♪
THERE YA GO!
You're so cute.
WOOF
WOOF
wag wag wag wag wag
HERE? YOU LIKE IT HERE?
WOOF
WOOF
More more! ♡
YOU'RE SO CLEVER, SAKURA.
NOW, ON THE OTHER HAND...
PANT PANT

CREAK
This way
Over here
OH LITTLE BLACK CAT OVER THERE
WON'T YOU COME OUT TO GREET ME?
MEOW
KYA!

HEY
WELCOME HOME, MASTER
The truth is,
Katsuragi Kei and I
have a "Master and Pet" relationship
You're sharp, Sakura.

-KUN IS AN HONORIFIC GENERALLY USED FOR BOYS WHO ARE PEERS. —ED

FWP
DEBT?!
SELLING THIS HOUSE WON'T BE ENOUGH TO PAY BACK EVERYTHING
LOAN
grand-father?!
What have you done?!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION YOUR HOUSE-HOLD IS IN?
AFTER GETTING RID OF EVERY-THING OF MON-ETARY VALUE THE CULPRIT HIMSELF HAS DISAPPEARED
THE ONLY THING LEFT IS YOU.
WHINE
HMM..
CAN YOU KEEP A PET AT YOUR HOUSE KATSURAGI-KUN?
HOW ABOUT I TAKE YOU IN FOR A FRIENDLY CONSULTATION SINCE WE'RE CLASSMATES?
...IT'S OKAY TO HAVE PETS AT MY APART-MENT RIGHT NOW, BUT...
THEN WON'T YOU TAKE HER?!

SAKURA
...CAN'T BECOME A WATCHDOG EVEN THOUGH SHE LOVES PEOPLE
SHE CAN'T DO THINGS LIKE SIT OR STAY ON COMMAND, BUT...
SHE'S A REALLY SWEET GOOD GIRL,
SO PLEASE...
FINE
I'LL KEEP HER
REALLY?!
"SAKURA," YOU SAY...
YOU MEAN THE DOG, RIGHT?
MUTTER
TAIL
CARESS
AL-THOUGH,
A PEDIGREED BLACK CAT IS WHAT I WANTED AS A PET

I'll take charge of these two.
Eh..!
Uhm..
Eh..?!
And so, that's how Sakura and I both became Katsuragi-kun's pets
AND,
WHAT EXCTLY, IS THIS DISASTER ZONE?
GUMB
GUMB
YOU
SLAM
YOU STILL DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN POSITION DO YOU?
WHO GAVE YOU ORDERS TO MAKE MEALS?
RAMBLE
WHILE I WAS MAKING DINNER PREPARATIONS I BLEW UP THE EGGS
THEN, WHEN I WAS LOOKING FOR THE CLEANING SUPPLIES, THE PAN CAUGHT ON FIRE
AND THEN ..
RAMBLE
ARE YOU THINKING I'M MAD AT YOU?
ES

SO TAKE A SHOWER FIRST
I may have been sheltered from the world,
but even I understand the meaning...
A PET SHOULD BEHAVE
AND LISTEN TO WHAT HER MASTER TELLS HER
I have to
prepare myself

WHIRR
I have to prepare...
PURPLE
PURPLE
Hah...?
There we go.
Stay!
Sit!
my...
self...
GOOD!
WHIRR
妄想

HERE,
OPEN YOUR MOUTH
something about...
this development is...
AM..
UHM
WHAT?
YOU CAN'T EAT THE MEAL YOUR MASTER PREPARED FOR YOU?

Give me all of it.
EH ??
MATCHING SET
BECOMING?
WALKS?
Go out on the weekends
TRAINING?
maybe,
he's really...
Study differently after dinner
...treating me like a pet?!
I can't do this...!
If I continue living this lifestyle any longer...
HEALTHY APPETITE + HEALTHY SLEEP SCHEDULE + HEALTHY STUDYING SCHEDULE
LATELY YOUR COMPLEXION HASN'T BEEN DOING VERY WELL, HAS IT?
It used to be so glossy!
.....
A BIT PLUMPER.
妄想ちゅ
WHAT'S HAPPENED, NARINOMIYA-SAMA?!
no matter how large the debt is,
being treated like this is...
*SAMA IS AN HONORIFIC (ENDEARING) SUFFIX USED FOR A PERSON OF HIGHER RANK/STATUS. —ED

I won't be able to go back to being a human...!
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS IT'LL TAKE
BUT I'LL WORK TO REPAY THE DEBT...
DIZZY
WH...
WHA...!
WITH SUCH A PRETTY HAND?
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO...
LIFT
SO..
kiss
kyaaaa!

What's the meaning of me being here like this...?
I at least want to be useful at one thing...
"You alone remain of the Narimomiya Bloodline."
Something I can do...
Tea ceremony, flower arrangement, traditional dancing, and playing the koto...
I went through harsh training to become a bride.
even so, when it came to basic cooking...
and even cleaning, I was to leave such things to my future husband...
PROOPING CAT

妄想cats

NARI-NOMIYA-SAMA
THE WEATHER IS SO FINE PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER IN THE COURTYARD?
SCRAPE
AS USUAL,
WHEN WE'RE AT SCHOOL, HE WON'T MEET MY EYES OR TALK TO ME
EH?!
NARI-NOMIYA-SAMA,
IT CAN'T BE YOU'RE INTERESTED IN KATSU-RAGI-SAMA?
FINCH
EH...
THAT IS..!
BE..
ukuh
BECAUSE I ALWAYS HAPPEN TO SEE HIM AT LUNCHTIME I'M A BIT INTERESTED..
THIS MAY SEEM OUT OF LINE, BUT
IT'S BEST NOT TO GET TOO INVOLVED WITH THAT PERSON
NARI-NOMIYA-SAMA..
If I tell them Ito-kun part, they'll surely misunderstand.

"THE DAUGHTER OF A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY PRESIDENT
MADE A POLITICAL MATCH WITH A YOUNG MAN WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE DIET"
A COMMON THING, OF COURSE.
BUT BEFORE LONG, WHAT WAS BORN OF THAT UNION...
WAS A CHILD WHO ANYONE COULD SEE AT A GLANCE HAD FOREIGN BLOOD IN HIM."
WHO WOULD SAY SUCH A THING...
"HIS VERY EXISTENCE
IS PROOF OF HIS MOTHER'S INFIDELITY"

"THE DIET" IS JAPAN'S LEGISLATIVE BRANCH.—ED

Whether at school or at home, there's nothing foreign about him.
At a superficial glance, he may look different
NARI-NOMIYA-SAMA?!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR
ANY MORE THAN THIS.

But I had sakura with me.
In lonely times,
in sad times,
like sakura who was there by my side no matter what...
SLAM
AOI..?
I want to do what I alone can do...
ISN'T IT AN OWNER'S JOB
TO FEED HIS PET?!

I just followed the recipe.
KA...!
KATSURAGI-KUN YOU'RE GOOD AT COOKING
ISN'T THIS ABOUT AVERAGE FOR ANY-ONE?
WHEN I LIVED IN DORMS, I HAD TO COOK FOR MYSELF ON THE WEEK-ENDS.
I CAN SURVIVE BY MYSELF ANYWHERE.
...OR SO I THOUGHT.
UH..M...
I CAN EAT BY MYSELF, SO...
HI, WENDY YES SWEETMS
YOU TOLD ME TO FEED YOU EARLIER...
HERE SAY "AH"
I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT...!
KA...!
!?
SHIP
Kyaaa! Kyaaa!
WAI-!
WHERE ARE YOU TOUCH-!
squishy squishy
HER WAIST
You need to work out your ass more.
Eeh!
笑想

KA...
KATSURAGI-KUN...?
In those times, when I felt anxious, I would hold sakura close to calm down...
...anyway,
Katsuragi-kun's the one who's more like sakura than me.
AOI
YOU'VE GOT CRUMBS STUCK TO YOU
EH?
WHERE...
lick

'37.2°C / 98.96°F —ED
37.2°C.
LOW-GRADE FEVER
000
GRAB
AOI?!
Oh!
妄想
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A COLD, BUT
ARE YOU HUNGRY?
getting a fever like this,
and causing nothing but trouble in the end.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO GO SO FAR TO TAKE CARE OF A MERE PET
...SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, AOI
...LEAVE ME ALONE.
AOI...?
What am I doing?

BUT ALL YOU DID WAS WORRY ABOUT YOUR DOG, SAKURA.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU'D BE STAYING FROM NOW ON
A MERE PET
NATURALLY, THAT'S
BECAUSE SAKURA HAS BEEN A PART OF MY FAMILY FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS...
THEN,
IF WE'RE TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER TEN YEARS, I'LL ALSO BECOME YOUR FAMILY
The world is
...dyed the color of sakura blossoms.

JUST REST FOR A BIT.
Treating me so gently,
and cherishing me...
What should I do?
...but I must not stray from this path.
!!!
...It's dark.
What time is it?
It's almost as if I'm needed.

I'm thirsty
AND JUST WHY DO YOU THINK WE CORNERED THEM UNTIL THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF BANKRUPTCY?
AS IF I'D KNOW
That is...
Katsuroza-kun's father's private secretary from the day they collected on the debt, right...?
I DO FIND THE WHOLE THING RATHER HILARIOUS, BUT...
THE FAMILY SENDING YOU SO SUDDENLY TO DISCUSS MARRIAGE IS A PROBLEM
YOU DO REALIZE THAT AOI AND I ARE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
Are they talking about me?
What...
ANY-WAY,
OF FOREIGN STOCK, SO HE'S WEAK AGAINST STRAIGHT BLACK HAIR.
WHEN YOU SAW HER IN PERSON YOURSELF, YOU WEREN'T AS DISSATISFIED AS YOU PRETEND, NOW WERE YOU?
MY FATHER SHOULD HAVE LEARNED HIS LESSON FROM HIS OWN FAILURE OF A POLITICAL MATCH
IT WASN'T A COMPLETE FAILURE
And a divorce wasn't practical

YOUR FATHER EVENTUALLY INTENDS FOR YOU TO BEGIN YOUR POLITICAL CAREER
THAT'S WHY HE WANTS TO ENSURE YOU ARE TIED TO THE NARINOMIYA FAMILY
CERTAINLY, IF I HAD THE KATSURAGI ASSETS AND THE NARINOMIYA CONNECTIONS, I WOULD BE INVINCIBLE
It's like riding on someone else's coattails.
RIGHT NOW YOUR PARTNER IS ONLY A YOUNG GIRL..
YOU MUST DO THIS TO SECURE THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR POSITION WITHIN THE KATSURAGI FAMILY

妄想scary

CLATTER

DASH
AOI...!
Oh, Aoi-san
So that's what he meant
"...A PEDIGREED BLACK CAT..."

AOI!
¥3 MILLION*
EH...?
MY PRICE
...FOR ONE NIGHT?
My parents
when faced with my grandfather's opposition, eloped and naturally married after
Then I was born.
妄想scans

It was modest, but we lived those happy days as a family of three plus one pet.
However, my father died in an accident,
and my grandfather took me in.
"Please..."
AT THAT TIME, MY MOTHER RECEIVED MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR ME...
NOW FOR A DEBT,
I LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT
AND FOR SUCH A LARGE SUM TOO.
BACK THEN,

妄想
LICK
And yet,
that's all I'm worth.
IT WASN'T THAT YOU WERE ONLY THINKING OF SAKURA
BUT, RATHER THAT, YOU THOUGHT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU
SAKURA?!
WAI...!
CUT IT OUT!
PANT PANT
I'M NOT YOUR MASTER ANYMORE, SO—
IT'S BECAUSE SHE LOVES YOU.

IT'S JUST...
THAT SHE LOVES YOU
AOI
THAT'S WHY SHE WANTS TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU
AND WHY SHE WANTS YOU TO SMILE HAPPILY

SO,
SMILE
It's just_
that she loves you"
LET'S GO
When I see your smiling face,
it warms my heart_
STEP
STEP
INOMIYA
THE HOSPITAL STAFF WAS BRIEFED TO SECRECY, BUT...
白辰総合病院
妄想ちゅ

GRAND-FATHER ?
AH!
GRANDFA...
PWAAH!
JUJAT
GYA
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU GOT THE INJURY AFTER YOU RECEIVED A CRUSHING DEFEAT AT THE HANDS OF THE CASINO
EH...
THEN WHY DID YOU BREAK THE STAFF...
...
HE'S HOPELESS IN THE NAME OF VALOR
OUT OF REVENGE FOR YOUR DEBTS DOUBLING, YOU KICKED THE HOTEL'S BRONZE ELEPHANT AND WERE HURT IN EXCHANGE. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW.
HOW IS A BONE FRACTURE ON YOUR PINKY TOE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH?
THROB
DON'T PRETEND YOU'RE ASLEEP

IF YOU DON'T DO THAT...
I'LL TAKE YOUR PRECIOUS GRAND-DAUGHTER...
KA...
KATSURAGI-KU...
IT WOULDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHETHER I TOLD YOU OR NOT
THAT'S...!
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE DEBTS?!
OR EVEN ABOUT YOUR INJURY...
THAT MAY BE SO, BUT..
GRAMPS LIES ARE BAD, YOU KNOW
妄想
WHO WOULD GIVE THEIR PRECIOUS GRANDDAUGHTER TO SOMEONE INFECTED BY THE WEST LIKE YOU...?!
What...?
Wha...
THEN PAY BACK THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE DEBT RIGHT THIS INSTANT
He threatens so casually!
I'VE COME TO INFORM YOU THAT THIS IS MY PAYMENT
PULL
Eh...

TAKE MY HOUSE, MY LAND,
WHATEVER YOU WANT!
BUT YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT LAY A HAND ON AOI!
MO——RON
THAT'S NOT EVEN REMOTELY SUFFICIENT

I'LL RETURN YOU THIS TIME
DOUBTLESS YOUR GRAMPS LL HAVE A SEIZURE IF EVERYTHING GOES THE WAY MY OLD MAN WANTS
KA...
KATSURAGI-KUN!
AOI...?
I don't want to let him go
Some-how...
Maybe I've... been tamed by him?
TH..
THANK YOU
...was probably flushed the color of sakura blossoms.
And that occurred over the course of only ten days
Nnh.
What should I do?
EVEN IF YOU ADDED UP EVERYTHING YOU OWN,
YOU COULDN'T EXCHANGE IT FOR AOI
It's like I've entirely become something of value.
DON'T FORGET THAT!
Right then, my face...

Or is it...
THEN
SHALL WE HEAD HOME?
Sakura's waiting too.
EH...?
A RETURN IS A RETURN
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE DEBT IS FORGIVEN
AT LEAST... NOT UNTIL THE INTEREST HAS BEEN REPAID
Even though...
EH?
EH?!
...we were supposed to be done with that!
AOI—!!
Is it already too late...?
...maybe.
FIN

ORIGINAL COLOR PREVIEW FROM LALA MAGAZINE:

"WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP THAT BINDS RICH GIRL AOI TO NONCONFORMIST KEI?!"

INTERWORK
(RAWS
TRANSLATIONS
CLEANING
TYPESETTING)

COTTON
(QUALITY
CONTROL)

ORIGINAL BLACK & WHITE LALA PREVIEW:

"WHAT IS THE SECRET RELATIONSHIP THAT BINDS AOI, THE DAUGHTER OF A DISTINGUISHED FAMILY, TOGETHER WITH NONCONFORMIST TRANSFER STUDENT KEI?!

妄想scans
(AKA MOUSOU OR "DELUSIONAL" SCANS—ED)

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